31 December, closing date for submission of logs for the PEARS HF QSO Party contest@pears.ham-radio-op.net

15 January - Hunting Lions in the Air - Eshowe Lions Club

21 to 23 January, Port Elizabeth ARS National VHF/UHF Contest

22 January, Summer QRP Sprint 26 January, SARL 80 m Club Contest, SSB



New Year's Digital Mode QRP Challenge

Andy, K3UK, brings news of a Digital QRP contest for the New Year weekend. He writes, "Snap contests featuring lesser know digital modes do not seem to attract enough interest to be fun, so for the upcoming New Year holiday I have created a digital mode challenge that does not depend on finding others in a specialized contest.

Here is the idea. Work ANY digital mode (not CW or SSTV) any band 160 to 10 metres (but no WARC bands), your station must be "QRP" 5 watts or less. There are no restrictions on the other station's power. The challenge will be from 00:00 UTC Saturday 31 December to 00:59 UTC Sunday 1 January 2011 (48 hours).

Challenge Targets = Bronze Medal 50 to 99 contacts or points; Silver Medal 100 to 199 contacts or points; Gold Medal 200+ contacts or points.

Rules: A contact can be made with the same station on different bands but only one digital mode per band. Example: using 5 watts or less, K3UK works P5DX who is using 100 watts, via JT65A on 160 m, P5K31 on 80 m, P5K31 on 40 m, Olivia, on 20 m, Thor on 15 m, and Olivia on 10 m = 6 contacts or points. K3UK using 5 watts or less working 100 watt G3USA on 20 m using P5K31 and Olivia can only be counted as one contact towards the challenge.

However, there is a BONUS for working other stations that are QRP. If you work another station that is signing "QRP" you get an extra "point" towards your medal challenge. Example K3UK works ZL3NZ on 80 m BOTH working QRP counts as two points.

You must use "QRP" as a suffix to your call sign. Use of spotting networks, Sked Pages, IS allowed. E-medals will be awarded to all that participate. Spread the word. Send your questions to me. I will post an address for your logs a little later."

Andy, K3UK, http://obriensweb.com/k3uk3.html
Digital Radio Yahoo Group http://groups.yahoo.com/group/digitalradio/

News from Iceland

Jonas Bjarnason, TF2JB, President of the Icelandic Radio Amateurs (IRA), reports that the Icelandic Post and Telecom administration has extended access to the 500 kHz (493 - 510 kHz), 70 MHz (70.000-70.200 MHz) and 5 MHz bands by two years, until 31 December 2012. As for 60 metres, TF operators have been granted 150 kHz (5360-5410 kHz) instead of the previous eight fixed channels, but the maximum power allowed has been reduced from 200 to 100 watts.







ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) is once again accepting DXCC and WAS applications. The system had been down earlier this week while undergoing testing before adding capabilities to apply for awards based on Maidenhead grid squares, such as the VHF/UHF Century Club awards (VUCC) and the Fred Fish Memorial Award. Testing for the addition of these functions is still ongoing.

A Christmas Eve Story

The year was 1906. Marconi had already invented the wireless telegraph and land and sea communication networks were being established. DeForest was attempting to perfect his 'audion' (triode) tube.

Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian inventor and Ernst Alexanderson, a Swedish immigrant, were hard at work in Fessenden's Massachusetts laboratory. They developed a mechanical device to "alternate" a continuous radio wave.

The device consisted of a huge disc that revolved at 20,000 rpm. They had connected it to a transmitter and a microphone, and discovered that they could "modulate" a radio signal!

On Christmas Eve, as wireless operators at land stations and aboard ships off the Massachusetts coast diligently maintained their radio watches by listening to the familiar Morse code signals; they were startled when they suddenly heard voices in their headphones!

They listened spellbound. Then, they heard a woman singing! Finally, they heard someone playing a violin! It was Fessenden himself, playing the sacred carol "O Holy Night."

No longer would radio sounds be restricted to the

"dit's" and "dah's" of the Morse code. That is how it happened, Christmas Eve... Nineteen Hundred and Six. (Reprinted from EMCOMM MONTHLY December 2004)

DXCC Card Checker Program

Bill Moore, NC1L, Awards Branch Manager says that for years, the DXCC card checker lookup page was available by means of a static lookup list by Division, Section then non-USA. This page has been removed and replaced with simple lookup (search) link on the DXCC web Site called 'DXCC Card Checker Search' (direct link to

http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search)

To find your local checker open this link and for USA click 'State', for non-USA click 'Country'. For USA only, you can narrow your search within your state to Zip Code and distance from your zip code by noting this information in the boxes shown.

In addition, as a reminder, DXCC card checkers are authorised to verify applications for these programs: Worked All States (WAS); VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) and Worked All Continents (WAC)

December

31 Closing CQ DX Marathon; Closing date PEARS HF logs

January 2011

1 New Years Day, Start of the 2011 CQ DX Marathon 1/2 ARRL RTTY Roundup 8/9 ARRL RTTY Roundup 9 DARC 10-Metre Contest 12 Inland Schools open 15 Hunting Lions in the Air 19 Coastal Schools open 20 Closing date for applications for May 2011 RAE bursaries 21 to 23 Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society National VHF/UHF Contest 22 Summer QRP Sprint 22/23 BARTG RTTY Sprint 26 SARL 80 m Club Contest, SSB 29 PIC Course, Gauteng

28 to 30 CQ 160-Metre CW Contest; UBA DX SSB Contest 30 Closing date for motions for the 2011 SARL AGM; Closing date for phase 1 of the construction competition





For non-USA, under the IARU General Certification Rules (GCR) any approved Awards Manager for a local IARU member society can also verify applications for these 3 programs.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{DXCC}}$ is NOT included in the GCR and can only be checked by approved $\ensuremath{\mathsf{DXCC}}$ card checkers.

All applicants are eligible to use approved DXCC card checkers. For non-USA, you do not need to be a member of your local IARU member society to utilize your local checker. For USA and possessions, ARRL membership is required to participate in ARRL Awards Programs. ARRL membership is not required for non-USA hams to participate.

Please send questions to dxcc@arrl.org

New WAB Award for 2011

WAB (Worked All Britain) are introducing a new award for the year 2011 only. For the new Coastal and Tidal award, you need to work as many WAB squares containing tidal water as you can. Valid squares are those shown as containing tidal water on an Ordnance Survey map.

The basic award is for 50 squares on HF or 10 on VHF rising in increments to 400 squares for the Diamond HF award.

More details, a copy of the certificate and a spreadsheet of valid squares are available on the WAB website www.worked-all-britain.co.uk. All contacts must be made in the 2011 calendar year.

International Marconi Day April 30

The Cornish Radio Amateur Club have announced that International Marconi Day 2011 will be held on Saturday 30 April. The club say the usual date of International Marconi Day 2011 would have fallen on the Easter Weekend so the date has been changed to the following Saturday. The organizers of this year's event are Norman, G4USB, and Ken, G0FIC. Previous IMD's were organised by Geoff Chance, MOGRC, who sadly passed away this year.

New LF Amateur Radio Band May Be Requested At WRC 2012

Newsline reports that ITU Region 3 will likely back a proposal to create a new, low frequency amateur radio allocation near 500 kilohertz.

The Asia Pacific Telecommunity or APT is currently hosting a gathering of the regions' telecommunications administrations. This is one of a series of meetings intended to develop common positions for all of Region 3 prior to the World Radiocommunication Conference to be held in Geneva in early 2012.

Of particular interest to the amateur community is Agenda Item 1.23. It seeks an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415 from 525,6 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis.

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 has representatives as observers at these preparatory meetings. While this particular meeting is not expected to adopt final positions, it is an important step in the process leading to any decisions that will be finalised at WRC 2012 in relation to any new Low Frequency Amateur Service band. [SARL News]

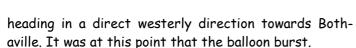
HABEX Chalks Up Its First Major Success

The main HABEX payload flew in excess of 33 000 metres before returning to the ground. The parrot repeater was the highlight of the day with many radio amateurs making contact from as far afield as Harrismith and Victoria West.

The balloon was launched at 07:10 and initially headed in a general southerly direction turning SE. Just southwest of Koppies, at about 18 000 metres, the balloon turned completely,

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Recovery teams who were chasing the balloon descended on the area and started the search. Approximately an hour later, the payload was found in a farmer's field. Unfortunately, the second balloon carrying a simple controller board and ancillary equipment failed. The project was a further learning curve for the team who will build on the knowledge gained for further launches.

Q50365 - A Q50 per day in 2011

In 2011, Keith, G6NHU, is embarking on an ambitious project to have a QSO every day of the year. QSOs can be on any band or any mode and Keith has declared that he is determined that he will have his first ever CW QSO during 2011 as he is in the process of learning Morse Code now.

There is a blog to follow the progress of this project at http://www.qso365.co.uk. The blog will not necessarily be updated every day but it will document



how the project is going with updates every few days. For further details and to follow this project throughout 2011, check out the blog at http://www.gso365.co.uk

2011 SARL Contest Manual Now Available on the Web

The 2011 SARL Contest Manual is now available on the web. To download the manual. which is in PDF format, go to the contest section of the web or click on the link on SARL TO-DAY on the home page. The manual previously known as the blue book has been completely revised and upgraded and is a must have for anyone planning to participate in contests. It is yet another free service for radio amateurs from the SARL. [SARL News]

2011 SARL Diary of Events

The 2011 SARL Diary of Events is available on the SARL web site as well as in the files section of the HF Happenings web site. It is suggested that after downloading the PDF document, all the odd pages are printed, turned over and all the even pages are printed and then stapled. You then have a nice calendar for your radio shack. This is also a free service for radio amateurs from the SARL.

Clubs, who would like to add their club calendar to the document and distribute it amongst their club members, can obtain the original document in MS Publisher format from zs4bs@netactive.co.za.

African DX

Democratic Republic of the Congo, 9Q. Barney, ZS6TQ / ZS4U, is operating as 9Q0HQ/6 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo until 11 January. He is active on 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 metres, SSB, CW and PSK-31, during the weekends and some days after 18:00 UTC. QSL via K3IRV.





Lesotho, 7P8. Gerry Gervin, EI8CC, former Honorary Secretary of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society and the new Irish ambassador to Lesotho will soon be active on CW and SSB as 7P8CC. The final items of Gerry's equipment have been shipped to Lesotho, so expect to hear him on the air soon.

Senegal, 6W. Francis, F6BLP, will once again be active as 6W7SK from Saly Portudal, Senegal, from 8 to 21 January 2011. He will be active on 17, 20, 30 and 40 m, mainly CW, with an IC-7000 and G5RV antenna. QSL via F6BLP direct, bureau and LoTW.

Sudan, ST. Robert, ST2AR has been active on 30 metres around 19:00 UTC. QSL via S53R.

Sierra Leone, 9L. The dates for the 9L5MS operation from Sierra Leone are 15 March - 4 April. Arie, PA3A, Arie, PA3AN, Ad, PA8AD, Bas, PDOCAV, and Dickson, EL2DT, will operate on 160 - 6 metres CW, SSB and RTTY, using three stations with amplifiers and several beams and vertical antennas. The team will provide support and raise funds for a Mercy Ships Charity Project. QSL via PA3AWW, direct or bureau (plus LoTW one year after the expedition). An OQRS for direct cards will be available on the expedition's website. Further information on the project can be found at www.sierraleone2011.com

Namibia, V5. Ulmar, DK1CE, will be active as V5/DK1CE from Namibia from 26 December to 6 January. He will operate CW only on 160 - 10 metres. QSL via home call (bureau) or DH3WO (direct).

Tanzania, 5H. Igor, UA3DJY is QRV as 5H3ACR from Dar Es Salaam and is here until late December. Activity is on all HF bands using CW and SSB. He will also be active from the DIT Communications Club station 5I3A. QSL via RK3AOL.

African Tour (Western). Peter, HA3AUI, is once again heading to Western Africa in early 2011. Look for him to be active as 6W2SC from Senegal and J5UAP from Guinea-Bissau between 1 February and 31 March (tentative dates). Peter has used these call signs before. His stays in Cabrousse, Senegal (6W) will be very near to the border of Varela, Guinea-Bissau (J5), and he plans to make regular trips to J5-land for the beautiful beaches there (plans to also operate from there). Using his Elecraft K3 with 500 w into a 5-Band Spiderbeam and verticals, Peter's activity will be on 160 - 10 meters, mainly on CW and the Digital modes, but he will use the other modes on request. QSL direct via HA3AUI. Visit his web site at http://cqafrica.net

African Tour (6W, J5 and IOTAs). Laci, HAONAR, will once again be heading to western Africa in early 2011, and plans to be there throughout February. He plans to visit and activate Senegal (6W) and Guinea-Bissau (J5) between 5 and 26 February. Specific dates were not mentioned, but the call signs are as follows Senegal (6W) - call sign 6W/HAONAR and Guinea-Bissau (J5) - call sign J5NAR. Laci is also planning to activate the following IOTA groups - AF-078 - Senegal South Group and AF-093 - Guinea-Bissau Coastal Region Group. His activity will be focused on the lower bands (160, 80, 40 and 30 m), especially 160 metres from Guinea-Bissau. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

579K QSL Status. Dave, G3NKC, reports that he has received around 400 direct QSL requests for 579K. However, he mentions that the cards printed by the printer are apparently lost in the mail and that another lot are now being prepared. All labels are printed and ready to go as soon as he receives the cards.





African Islands on the Air

Mauritius 3B8, (AF-049). Slavo, SP2JMB, will once again be active as 3B8SC from here between 8 and 17 February. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW. QSL via his home call sign. Photos of Slavo's past trip and operations at http://sp2jmb.pl/index.php?page=wyprawy&LANG=eng

Special Event Stations

Hungary. From 1 January 2011 until 31 December 2011 a group of Hungarian radio amateurs from Jánoshalma, Hungary, will use the special call sign HG200LST. This special event is to commemorate the 200^{th} anniversary of birth of the genius composer, virtuoso pianist and piano teacher Liszt Ferenc or Franz Liszt, 1811 - 1886. QSL via HA5GY.

The Netherlands, PA. VERON Section 54 (Etten-Leur) celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2011 and a number of special prefixed call signs will be in use between 1 January and 31 December - PA30ATG (QSL via PA0ATG), PA30BR (PA1BR), PA30CPA (PA1CPA), PA30CVD (PA2CVD), PA30DD (PA9DD), PA30EBP (PA3EBP), PA30GBI (PA3GBI), PA30JSB (PA5JSB), PA30LOU (PA0LOU), PD30GWF (PD1GWF), PH30B (PH1B), PI30ETL (PI4ETL club station, QSL via PA1CPA). Details on the relevant award can be found at http://a54.veron.nl/award

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 27 December 2010 to 3 January 2011.

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party 00:01 UTC 18 December to 23:59 UTC 2 January

Mode: Any

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Member no, name and state, province or country; Non-Members: Serial no, name and state, province or country; Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS no, name

and state, province or country QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if partici-

pant activated a lighthouse/lightship

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total Q50

points

Submit logs by: 31 January 2011

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NFOJ, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA

Find rules at:

http://arlhs.com/LCL-2010-guidelines.html

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 29 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and power output QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total Q50

points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 30 December

2010

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

QRP Fox Hunt



02:00 - 03:30 UTC 31 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 1 January 2011

E-mail logs to: (see rules) Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

AGB New Year Snowball Contest 00:00 - 01:00 UTC 1 January

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or Mixed; Single Op Mixed QRP; Multi-Op; Digital; SWL Exchange: AGB Member: RST, QSO no and Member no; non-Member: RST and QSO no Work stations: Once per mode per 15-minute

period (see rules)

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with AGB member Multipliers: Each AGB member once; Each

DXCC/WAE country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total Q50

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 January 2011 E-mail logs to: eu1eu[at]qsl[dot]net

Mail logs to: Igor "Harry" Getmann, EU1EU,

PO Box 143, Minsk 220005, Belarus

Find rules at:

http://www.gsl.net/eu1eu/agb_nysb.htm

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest 08:00 - 11:00 UTC 1 January

Mode: RTTY Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single; SWL

Max operating hours: 3 hours

Exchange: RST, QSO no, name and happy New

Year (native language)

Work stations: Once per band Q50 Points: 1 point per Q50

Multipliers: Each DXCC country, except Scandinavia, once per band; Each Scandinavian

prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 January 2011

E-mail logs to: contest[at]sartg[dot]com Mail logs to: SARTG Contest Manager, Ewe Hakansson, SM7BHM, Pilspetsvagen 4, SE-

291 66 Kristianstad, Sweden

Find rules at:

http://www.sartq.com/contest/nyrules.htm

AGCW Happy New Year Contest 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 1 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m Classes: Single Op; SWL Max operating hours: 3 hours

Max power: 1: >150 W; 2: 150 W; 3: 5 W Exchange: AGCW: RST, serial no, "/" and member no; non-AGCW: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band QSO Points: 1 point per QSO Multipliers: Each AGCW member

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 January 2011 E-mail logs to: hnyc[at]agcw[dot]de Mail logs to: Daniel Schirmer, DL5SE, Am

Teich 15, 25917 Stadum, Germany

Find rules at:

http://www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:Happy_N ew_Year_Contest

Original QRP Contest

15:00 UTC 1 January to 15:00 UTC 2 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m

Classes: Single Op - VLP, QRP or MP - Hand-

made or Open

Max operating hours: 15 hours

Max power: VLP: 1 W; QRP: 5 W; MP: 20 W Exchange: RST and Serial No. and "/" and

Power category

QSO Points: QSO with station who submits log: 4 points; QSO with station that does not



submit log: 1 point; 15% bonus for use of TR/TRX assembled from kit; 30% bonus for

use of unique handmade TR/TRX

Multipliers: DXCC Countries: 2 mult points if station submits log, 1 mult point if no log Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mult points

Submit logs by: 31 January \$2011 E-mail logs to: oqrpc[at]qrpcc[dot]de Mail logs to: Lutz Gutheil, DL1RNN, Bergstrasse 17, D-38446 Wolfsburg, Ger-

manv

Find rules at:

http://www.grpcc.de/contestrules/ogrpr.html

Kid's Day Contest

18:00 - 23:59 UTC 2 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 2 m re-

peaters
Classes: (none)

Exchange: name, age, QTH and favourite col-

our

Submit logs by: 1 February 2011

E-mail logs to: (none)
Mail logs to: (see rules)

Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/kids-day

RSGB 80 m CW Club Championship 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 3 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 10 January 2011

Upload log at:

http://www.rsqbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.rsqbcc.org/hf/rules/2011/r80mc

c.shtml

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 January

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 5 January

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 7 January

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 7 January

PODXS 070 Club PSKFest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 8 January

MI QRP January CW Contest, 12:00 UTC 8 January to 23:59 UTC 9 January

WW PMC Contest, 12:00 UTC 8 January to 12:00 UTC 9 January

ARRL RTTY Roundup, 18:00 UTC 8 January to 24:00 UTC 9 January

North American CW QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 8 January to 06:00 UTC 9 January

EUCW 160 m Contest, 20:00 - 23:00 UTC 8 January and 04:00 - 07:00 UTC 9 January

SKCC Weekend Sprint, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 9 January

NRAU-Baltic CW Contest, 06:30 - 08:30 UTC 9 January

DARC 10-Metre Contest, 09:00 - 10:59 UTC 9 January

NRAU-Baltic SSB Contest, 09:00 - 11:00 UTC 9 January

Midwinter Contest, 10:00 - 14:00 UTC 9 January

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW. The week starting Monday 27 December 2010.

1622 - Papacy adopts 1 January as the start of a year instead of 25 March

1825 - First public railway using steam locomotive completed in England

A Prosperous 2011 to you and your loved ones! May 2011 be filled with good health, success and the Lord's Blessings!



HF Happenings

December 10





- 1869 WF Semple, in the USA, patents Chewing Gum
- 1878 First US store to install electric lights, situated in Philadelphia
- 1901 Commonwealth of Australia is proclaimed
- 1902 N. Stubblefield, USA, demonstrates his wireless telephone
- 1936 First electron tube to enable night vision described in St Louis, USA
- 1938 Electronic television system patented by V K Zworykin
- 1951 First battery to convert radioactive energy to electrical energy announced
- 1952 First transistor hearing aid marketed in the USA

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in M5 Word format.